

1 We have approximately four more
2 individuals, three that are on the list, one that
3 showed up late and I put at the bottom of the list.
4 I would be happy to entertain a motion to extend our
5 period by 15 minutes so that all of those individuals
6 who have traveled a great distance to be here could be
7 heard.

8 MR. WILHELM: So moved.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Do I hear a second?

10 PARTICIPANT: Second.

11 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

12 DR. DOBSON: Madame Chairman, Mr. McCarthy
13 and I both have a plane to catch. So we are going to
14 have to slip out, but I intend no disrespect to the
15 people remaining.

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I understand that we
17 have Commissioners that are in that circumstance, but
18 the chair will remain, and we will hear from everyone
19 who's traveled in order to be here.

20 Thank you.

21 Ms. Juanita Hooper.

22 MS. HOOPER: Yes. My name is Juanita

1 Hooper. I was born in Atlantic City. I have had two
2 jobs in the last 36 years, 18 years at Homburgers in
3 women's retail store and 18 years at Bally's Park
4 Place.

5 When I left Homburgers I was making \$3.20
6 an hour with a one percent commission. Atlantic City
7 was a summer resort. After Labor Day you could take
8 a bowling ball and roll it down the boardwalk and not
9 hit a soul.

10 I started at Bally as a slot booth
11 supervisor with good salary and benefits. After a
12 year, I went to dealing school and became a dealer.
13 The salary even got better.

14 After six months' employment as a dealer,
15 Bally reimbursed me for dealer school. My husband
16 also has been at Bally's for 18 years and started as
17 a dealer.

18 We both got promoted to the position of
19 casino floor supervisor in 1983. Daniel, my husband,
20 is now a pit supervisor.

21 Who would have thought with only a high
22 school diploma you could make 40 to \$50,000 a year?

1 We bought our first home 15 years ago in Atlantic
2 City. Now we're buying a new home in the inlet
3 section of Atlantic City near the ocean. The
4 development is called Madison Landing. Funding is
5 handled through CREDA, the Casino Redevelopment
6 Authority.

7 My husband Daniel and I have been married
8 24 years, 18 years while working at Bally. In
9 addition to great benefits, the company offers a
10 401(k) type plan called Cashbuilder.

11 I meet people from all over the world and
12 work with people from all over the world. Coming to
13 work at Bally's so many years ago has turned out to be
14 one of the best decisions we've ever made for our
15 lives and our future.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

18 Chris -- and, Chris, how do you pronounce
19 your last name?

20 MS. NECAISE: Necaise.

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Necaise?

22 MS. NECAISE: Necaise.

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Chris Necaise,
2 welcome.

3 MS. NECAISE: Hi. My name is Chris
4 Necaise. I'm an associate at Grand Casino, Gulfport,
5 and please excuse my nervousness.

6 I would like to thank the Commission for
7 the opportunity to speak here today on something I
8 feel very strongly about. That is the positive effect
9 gaming has had on my life, as well as countless other
10 lives on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

11 When I first came to work for Grand
12 Casino, Gulfport, I was a single parent on welfare.
13 Back then when I looked to the future, it looked
14 pretty bleak. Now when I look to the future, it seems
15 brighter and much more secure.

16 I now have a sense of self-confidence and
17 self-worth that was missing for many years. No longer
18 will I have to suffer the embarrassment of buying
19 groceries with food stamps. No longer will I suffer
20 the humiliation of trying to find a doctor for myself
21 or my son who will accept Medicaid.

22 Never again will my son have to suffer the